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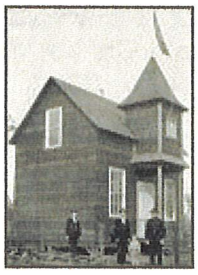
SILVERHILL SCHOOL HISTORY

by Dolores J. Cooper



When Silverhill was founded in 1896, immediate plans were made to build a school as enough families with children had purchased land in the community. Two years later, a building was erected and used until 1903 when a larger building was needed. The old building was used as the land office by the founder, Mr. Oscar Johnson, and now is the town library.



School was conducted in the local Baptist Church while a new two-story building was constructed. The Land Company paid the first two teachers, Miss Millie Anderson and Miss Sarah Carlson. The third teacher and the first male teacher was Mr. Owens. As the enrollment grew, two teachers were hired from Bay Minette: Miss Pearl Campbell and Miss Mary Feminear who taught several years. During this time the School Improvement Association was organized by Mrs. T.A. Johnson, Mesdames Oscar Johnson, O.P. Forsman, Alfred

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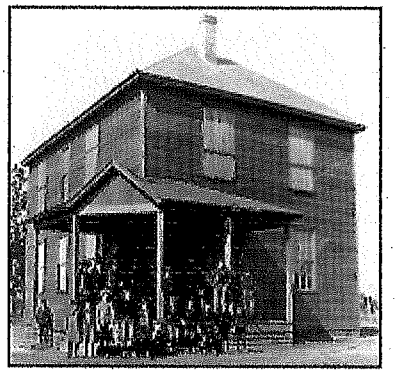
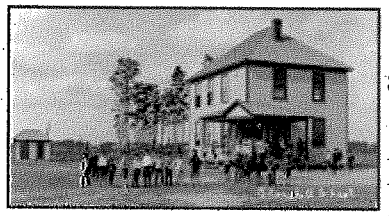
Carlson, Charles Lyrene, Mr. Oscar Johnson and Dr. O.F.E. Winberg as charter members.



Miss Evelyn Wilkes, a gifted young lady who came to Silverhill from Terre Haute, Indiana, with her parents and sister, would substitute and assist the teachers. Later, she became a teacher in the school as well as the county. After she joined Superintendent Tharp's office, her knowledge was shared with larger education circles in the southeastern U.S. Other early teachers were Mildred Hall, Xeripha Bryars, Ella White and Lilla Simmons. Miss Hall organized the Non Pareil Club that sponsored the town library since 1906.



Miss Agnes Johnson became an assistant to Miss Pearl Campbell about 1914 and ultimately became principal. Evelyn Wilkes and Louise Johnson assised her until her resignation in 1921. Lucy Thompson became principal with Miss Irby and Miss Harris as assistants until 1923 when Miss Lillie Belle Emmons became principal of the school assisted by Miss Winifred Cherry and Mrs. Lundberg. The school now had four teachers with the addition of Fannie Lane Emmons, who replaced Miss Cherry, and Essie Garrett. Other techers during this time included Misses Julia Mathers and Lena Ferguson of Stockton and Little River. Mrs. Lundberg introduced basketball to the school and the community about this time.



The Silverhill Community and Fair Association, organized in 1921, used the colony-owned two-room school building for its annual fairs and evening performances. The large crowds attending these events led to the addition of two additional rooms to the school. In 1924, the association and community patrons built the Community Hall for such functions.

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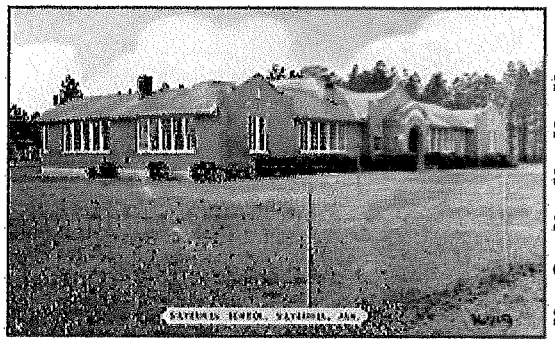
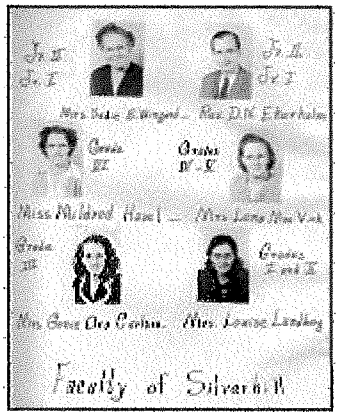


The first public school was built by the state in 1928-29. The new school, located directly across the road to the south of the original building, had six classrooms, a large auditorium, office and kitchen. The Bohemia School was consolidated with Silverhill this same year and the first school bus carried the grade school children into Silverhill and the high school students to Robertsdale. Mr. Dave Forsman was the first school bus driver. Teachers that year were: Mrs Lundberg, principal; Misses Genie Ora Tharp of Grove Hill; Irene Young of Bay Minette; and Frances Williamson of Ashland, Alabama.



Principals from 1929 to 1953 were: Mr. James Dailey, Martin Simmons, Dupree Mason, F.D. Moore, M. Phillips, R. Gate, Mrs. Rosa McCloud, W. Wingard, Gerald Robinson and David Petty. Teachers during this time included A. Pepper, Bernice Miller, Alice Mannich, Theresa Guarisco, Evelyn Nelson, Margaret Huggins, Marjorie Jewell, Lillie Belle Emmons, Earline Moore, Evelyn Correll, Mildred Havel, Glady Rogers, and W. Kirkland. Other names of teachers remembered by former students are Donham, Smart, Aiken, Greene, Reding, Eastburn, Blackburn, Meredith Hichs and Eckerholm.



The PTA Founders Day Dinner was begun while Mrs. Wingard was principal and is still a major fund raising activity. The food and dress of the servers represents the community's early heritage from Sweden and Czechoslovakia.

In 1953, the school campus had ten acres with pine trees,

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azaleas, ample playground areas and a well kept lawn. The building was heated by butane gas, had a well equipped kitchen where meals were prepared and taken to the classrooms and the teachers had access to a movie projector, record player and piano. Various sports equipment was available for the very active physical education classes.



Six classrooms were built in 1956 to replace those lost in a fire the previous year and a cafeteria was added in 1958. Additional classrooms were added in 1963, 1973, 1974 and 1976 to accommodate the increasing enrollment. Five classrooms and restrooms were added in 1986 and a band room and gymnasium were built in 1988. A wing containing six classrooms, library and restrooms were added in 1998.

Students in kindergarten through fifth grade now attend the school. Silverhill's founders were great supporters of education for their children and history attests to the fact that some of the best schools in the county were in the community.

Written 2001 for The Baldwin County Heritage Book.

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supplements individual classes, grade levels and special projects such as the math and science lab. The Pelican's Nest Science Lab received several grants and awards in 2000, including Best Community Environmental Education Project, Environmental Education Association of Alabama and Citizen Scientist Award and the Sea World/Busch Gardens Environmental Excellence Award Center for Marine Conservation.

Central Baldwin County Area Public Schools

ROBERTSDALE HIGH SCHOOL

A wooden two-story structure built in 1905 was the first home of Robertsdale High School. Six years later, it was replaced by a more permanent block building that taught grades one through eight. Students in grades nine through 12 attended classes in Bay Minette. In 1928, a building was erected and housed students in grades one through 12. This is the present site of Robertsdale Elementary School. In 1992, Robertsdale High School opened on Highway 59.

Situated along the campus' 50 acres are 58 instructional rooms, a media center and gymnasium, along with a football field house, football and band practice fields, and softball and baseball facilities.

CENTRAL BALDWIN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Located on Highway 59 between the towns of Loxley and Robertsdale, Central Baldwin Middle School joined the Baldwin County Public School family in 1994. Its formation opened many doors, helping to bring the children of the outlying Loxley, Robertsdale, Silverhill and Summerdale communities, together to learn under one roof. The plant's incorporation also enhances the opportunities for those students who plan to attend Robertsdale High School.

Loxley

Another community founded in the shadows of Baldwin County's land rush after the turn of the 20th-century was Loxley, which is still a major player in the area's agricultural identity. In the years following its initial founding, Loxley became home to one of the county's few junior high schools at the time.

LOXLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Located on Chicago Street, Loxley Junior High School for grades 1-9 opened its doors in 1927. Mrs. Bertie Gilbert functioned as the site's earliest principal. In addition, successors W. Chandler McGowen, Leslie Smith and A. R.McVay also served terms as superintendent over the county's school board.

Fifty years later, a new junior high facility was constructed on County Road 49 to serve grades 7-9. The former junior high building became Loxley
Elementary School and had classes for grades K-6.

In 1995, Central Baldwin Middle School was built north of Robertsdale, and students attending the former junior high were moved to CBMS, while the former junior high became the teaching site for grades 4 and 5 in the
Loxley area.

Construction of a new wing at Loxley Elementary in 1997 provided 21 classrooms, a computer lab, library and gym. Currently, the school maintains educational, creative and extracurricular programs for about 350 K-6
students.

ROBERTSDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

In 1905, Southern Plantation Development Company of Chicago, Illinois founded Robertsdale, Alabama. This same company also built Robertsdale Elementary School, a two-story frame structure. The school's 35 students eagerly attended the grades 1 through 8 classes. In 1914, the School Improvement Society voted to build a three-room school. Additions were made until 1920, when a larger facility was needed.

In 1927, students moved into the larger building, which remains on the current site. It consisted of a main building, auditorium and agricultural building, which also housed a shop used for vocational classes. The present gymnasium was constructed in the 1960s, and in 1986, a science wing and cafeteria adjoined the facility.

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SILVERHILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Founded in 1902 in of all places a Land Company office, Silverhill Elementary School housed the state's first "paid" teacher. A class of 25 students, of Swedish and Czechoslovakian descent, occupied the small office space, now the Silverhill Public Library. With an increase in enrollment, a new two-story building was dedicated in 1907 at the corner of Fourth and Eighth avenues. To better accommodate the eager students, the school decided to further divide the grades. Children in the 5th through 8th grades attended mornings, while primary up to 4th grade classes met in the afternoon.

In 1928, a new school was built, a brick building with six classrooms, an auditorium, kitchen and office. A fire that destroyed the building in 1955, gave the school a chance to expand its complex. By the next year, a new structure consisting of six classrooms, two restrooms, an office and boiler room, was added. In 1981, the current cafeteria was built, and in 1986, the kindergarten and middle school wings (now 2nd and 3rd grade classes) were created. The most recent addition include grade rooms 4 and 5, and the library wing.

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History of Silverhill School and Edhegard/Owen Home

Date	Silverhill School	Edhegard/Owen Home
Summer 1898	Silverhill School begins in 1898, when Ester Anderson, a cousin to the Oscar Johnson's from Chicago, is asked to conduct a school during the summer for the colony children in a very new barn (possibly on Oscar Johnson's farm) with a class of some eight or ten pupils. (Oscar Johnson is Silverhill's founder and first mayor.)	
Winter 1898	Oscar Johnson pays a Miss Millie Anderson to teach students in the Svea Land Company Office (present day library building). School is taught in this location 1898 – 1904.	
1902	Miss Millie Anderson became the first teacher paid by the state having about 25 pupils.	
1904	Silverhill School holds its 1904-1905 school year in the Baptist sanctuary waiting for the new two-story schoolhouse to be built. The class size had outgrown the Land Office.	
1905	**Silverhill Schoolhouse is completed for the beginning of school, October 1905. It is built by donated labor on three lots of land owned by the Svea Land Company. The materials bought to build the school cost $552.**	
1906	**The Lutheran congregation held their Sunday meetings in the schoolhouse until their sanctuary was completed in 1915. During those years, the congregation contributed a pump organ and a bell. The bell is now located in the front of the new schoolyard.**	
1907	**Non Pariel Club is organized by a group of young women with the aim of purchasing and assembling books for the community to read. The books are shelved at the two-story Schoolhouse until 1930 when they are moved to the present library building. This is the beginning of the Silverhill Library.**	
1909	**School Improvement Association is organized Nov. 5, 1909, with Mrs. Theodore A. Johnson serving as the first president. Years later the organization becomes the PTA.**	
1922	**Silverhill Community and Fair Association held its second annual fair in the two-room school building. The large crowds attending this event led to the addition of two rooms to the school in the coming year.**	
1923	**Silverhill Community and Fair Association held its third annual fair in the Silverhill School. The community just finished adding two more rooms to the school, doubling the size of the building.**	
1928	The new one-story brick school building is completed for the 1928-1929 school year. Dave Forsman converts a truck into a school bus and is the first bus driver. The Czech children are bused into town to attend Silverhill School for the first time under the leadership of Mrs. Lundberg their principal and teacher.	**Silverhill School moves out of the two-story schoolhouse into the new brick building across the street.**

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1928? – 1942?		**The old two-story schoolhouse is used as a vocational school where various skills are taught (such as woodworking).**
1942		**Mr. and Mrs. Sixten Edhegard buy the old two-story schoolhouse from Oscar Johnson's daughter, Agnes Utter. The Edhegards reconstruct the building to become a family home where they live until 1976.**
1945	While Mrs. Wingard was principal and Mrs. Albert Phillips was P.T.A. president, the P.T.A. began sponsoring the Annual Founders Day Dinner, which continued until 2004.	
November 11, 1955	A fire started in the southeast wing of the brick school. Despite the efforts of the local fire departments, the entire school burned to the ground.	
Summer 1956	Anew school was built with six classrooms, two restrooms, an office and a boiler room, but no cafeteria or auditorium.	
1958	The community banded together, under the leadership of the P.T.A. and raised most of the money required constructing a cafeteria building, which is the present day school office.	
1963-64	Two classrooms are added.	
1969	Silverhill Elementary School integrated by black students.	
1973	Additional classroom added which was later used as the library and now the teachers' workroom.	
1974	Additional classrooms are added.	
1976	Two additional classrooms are added.	**Mr. and Mrs. Phil Owen buy the house from the Edhegard children and live there until the present time.**
1981	The present day cafeteria was built.	
1985	The "Little Hall" building was moved to the west side of the Silverhill campus and was used for classes.	
1986	Classrooms for kindergarten and a middle school wing are constructed	
1988	The "Little Hall" building was moved of campus and a gymnasium was built in its place.	
August 1994	Silverhill Elementary School moves its sixth, seventh, and eighth grade classes to Central Baldwin Middle School.	
1998	The fourth and fifth grade classrooms and library wing are built.	

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SILVERHILL SCHOOL

When Silverhill was founded in 1896, plans were made for the building of a school house as soon as enough "Land Seekers" would bring their families to the Colony.

A building, 22x30, was erected in 1898 which was use until 1903. The enrollment increased so rapidly that a larger building was necessary. The original school house was then used as the Land Company office by the Founder, Mr. Oscar Johnson. It is now the town library sponsored by the N.P.C. Library Club.

While a two story building was being erected, school was conducted in the local Baptist Church.

The first two teachers, Miss Millie Anderson and Miss Sarah Carlson, were paid by the Land Company. The third teacher, Mr. Owens, was the only man teacher until about 1929, when Mr. James Dailey became principal.

With the growth of the Colony came a larger school enrollment which called for a two-teacher school. These two young ladies were Miss Pearl Campbell (Mrs. N. Noonan) and Miss Mary Ferinear (Mrs. Killebrew) both of Bay Minette, Alabama. They taught here several years, and it was during their time that the "School Improvement Association" was organized in about the year 1907. The late Mrs. T. A. Johnson (Mother of Mrs. Lundberg) was the first chairman, and the Mesdames Oscar Johnson, O. P. Forsman, Alfred Carlson, Charles Lyrene, Mr. Oscar Johnson and Dr. O.F.E. Winberg were among the Charter members.

Miss Evelyn Wilkes (Mrs. Frederick Vaill of St. Augustine, Florida) a gifted young lady who came to Silverhill from Terre Haute, Indiana with her parents and sister, would substitute and assist the teachers. Later, she became a teacher in the school; also

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in the County. She became an assistant in Supt. Tharp's Office and later became well known in larger education circles in the South and Florida.

Other early teachers were the Misses Mildred Hall, Xeripha Bryars, Ella White and Lilla Simmons. Miss Hall was the organizer of the Non Pareil Club, which since 1906 sponsored the town Library.

Miss Agnes Johnson (Mrs. O.W. Utter) daughter of the founder, Mr. Oscar Johnson, began teaching as assistant to Miss Pearl Campbell in about 1914. She later became principal of the school with Miss Evelyn Wilkes as assistant, and later Miss Louise Johnson (Mrs. G. Lundberg). It was at this time that County Superintendent, J. S. Lambert resigned to take up a position with the State Dept. of Education and that Mr. S. M. Tharp, a native of Clark County, but principal of the Bay Minette School, became County Superintendent. Miss Agnes Johnson discontinued teaching in 1921, but Mrs. Lundberg continued teaching because of ill health.

Miss Lillie Belle Emmons was the next principal with assistants Miss Winifred Cherry and Mrs. Lundberg in 1923. The number of teachers was increased to four when Miss Cherry was replaced by Miss Fannie Lane Emmons and Miss Essie Garrett (Mrs. Harry Linden) was the additional teacher. Other teachers were the Misses Julia Kathers and Lena Ferguson of Stockton and Little River. It was during these years that Mrs. Lundberg introduced basket ball into both the school and community.

In the year 1921 the Silverhill Community and Fair Association was organized with Mr. Charles Lyrene as chairman and Mrs. Lundberg as Program chairman. The Annual Fairs and Evening Performances were begun in the two room school house. This building proved too small, so the community decided to build two more rooms to the

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Coloney-owned school house. The school building was then used for all community activities until the Community Hall was built in 1924. After that, the school programs, the School Improvement Association meetings (now changed to the P-T A) were held in the Community Hall.

In the years 1928 and 1929, the state built a new six class room school building with a large auditorium, an office and kitchen, directly across the road to the South of the original building. The teacher that year were Mrs. Lundberg, principal and the Misses Genie Ora Tharp (Mrs. Ivan Carlson) of Grovehill, Miss Irene Young of Bay Minette, Miss Frances Williamson of Ashland, Alabama. During that year the Bohemia School was consolidated with Silverhill and the first school bus carried the Grade School Children into Silverhill, and the High School students to Robertsdale. Mr. Dave Forsman was the first School Bus Driver.

Mr. James Dailey was the next principal with others following in this order: Kessers. Martin Simmons, Dupree Mason, V. D. Moore, M. Phillips, R. Gates, Mesdames Rosa McCloud, W. Wingard and Messrs. G. Robinson and D. Petty.

Other teachers serving throughout the years have been the Misses A. Pepper, Bernice Miller, Alice Mannich, Theresa Guarisco, Evelyn Nelson, Margaret Huggins, Marjorie Jewell, Lillie Belle Emmons, Earline Moore, Evelyn Correll, Mildred Havel, Gladys Rogers, W. Kirkland; the Mesdames M. Donham, Ocie Sever Smart, Aiken, Phillips, D. Mason, V.D. Moore, E. Greene, Edna Saye Reding, M. Eastburn, P. Blackburn, J. Meredith, D. Petty, Mr. J. Hicks and Rev. Don Eckerholm.

The present faculty of 1953 are Mr. G. Robinson, Mrs. C. Vick, Mrs. (Mildred Havel) F. Engstrom, Mrs. C. Anderson, Mrs. I. Carlson and Mrs. G. Lundberg.

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During Mr. Moore's principalship, the progressive education methods were introduced into Silverhill and Baldwin County Schools under the supervision of Mrs. N. Hayes.

P-T A FoundersDay Dinners in all the splendor, beauty and attractiveness, the delicious food, and fine entertainment were started while Mrs. Wingard was principal. These continue to be a success, financially, socially and professionally, and draw crowds from far and wide as well as locally.

The present school campus consists of ten acres with a beautiful pine forest to the rear, a well-kept lawn to the front, azaleas and other shrubbery surrounding the premises. This is interspersed by ample play ground area for the various grades.

The entire school is heated by butane gas, a well equipped kitchen serves plate lunches which are eaten in the individual rooms; each grade has its own library; the school has a movie projector, a film strip projector, a record player, a piano; equipment for various ball sports; drinking fountains, and modern bathrooms.

County Music Supervisor, Miss Carolyn Day has created much interest and enthusiasm in Music and singing. The Grade children have participated in the County music Festival in singing, folk dancing, rhythm, harmony and symphonette bands. Formerly the Annual County "Field Days" were enjoyed.

The children in the school have access to music in piano, orchestra, band, ballet, tap and music fundamentals, with the following being available for instructions: Messrs. C. Lundberg, J. Novak and the Mesdames Roberta Chamberlain McCue and Geo. Lundberg.

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Boys and girls 4-H Clubs have been conducted throughout the years. Spring Festivals with the crowning of the May Queen were originated by Mrs. Lundberg in 1942. The entire Royal Court was taken from among the school children, all of which later participated in the Annual May Day Festival at Daphne. This is now all sponsored by the Home Demonstration Club.

As the years have come and gone and progress has been made, it points to the one at the head of the County Education Department, Supt. S. M. Tharp, who has so valiantly led the schools of Baldwin County through good times as well as hard times. We give appredíation and praise to him, and to our local trustees, Messrs. Emery Johnson, L. Chandler and Albert Phillips.

Among the P-T A. Chairman who have served here at Silverhill have been; Mrs. T.A. Johnson, Mrs. O. Johnson, Mr. P. Forsman, Mrs. Forsman, Mrs. D. Forsman, Rev. K. Derlin, Mrs. C. L. Chandler, Mrs. Albert Phillips, Mr. J. F. Smart, Mr. G. L. Chandler, Mrs. Arnold Chandler, Mrs. W. Foukel, Mrs. O P. Swanson, Mr. Axel Rundquist, Mrs. J. Harden.

P-T A. officers for the coming year are chairman, Mr. J. Konicky, Vice Chairman, Mrs. J. Sykora, Secretary, Mrs. A. J. Bianco, Treasurer, Mr. George Lyrene.

Special recognition is given to Mr. Emery Johnson who served as Treasurer for the P-T A. for twenty years.

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A HISTORY OF SILVERHILL SCHOOL

by Carl E. Johnson

While reading over the information available I was reminded again and again that the most important part of the history of Silverhill School is the people. From the time when the first school was established prior to 1900 until today, the people have unselfishly given of their time, efforts and talents. As I read about the activities and projects of this school, the personal involvement was clearly evident. The facts of this history serve as a reminder of the wonderful heritage we have. It is a large part of what has made not only the Silverhill area, but all of Baldwin County unique and "A GOOD PLACE TO LIVE".

Silverhill School began in 1898, when Ester Anderson, a cousin to the Oscar Johnson's from Chicago, was asked to conduct a school during the summer for the colony children in a very new barn with a class of some eight or ten pupils.



The Svea Land Company Office was completed by June 1899 and was used as a Real Estate Office to sell

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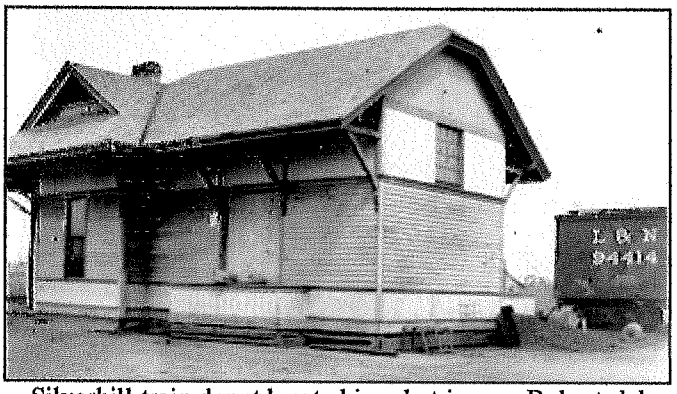
property to the Swedish Colonists. It was also used as a Church and School before the settlers were able to build the community's churches and school house. - Click to Enlarge.

In 1890, the Svea (Swedish) Land Company was formed in Chicago, Illinois, for the purpose of colonizing land in the south. Some familiar names in this group were Carlson, Johnson, Linden, Nelson, Swanson and even a fellow named Charles Smith. Following several years of research, it was finally decided that the colony would be located in Baldwin County, Alabama.



Silverhill train depot located in what is now Robertsdale on Chicago street, across from Campbell's Hardware. - Click to Enlarge.

In June of 1896, the group completed the acquisition of a tract of land from what is now Robertsdale on the east to Fish River on the west and began making preparations to colonize the new land to be called The Svea or Swedish Colony. Remember that there was no Robertsdale. Robertsdale later grew up around the Silverhill train depot. A couple of years before the colony was founded in 1896, a turpentine still was operated east of what is now Silverhill by a man named Lowell. This still was located on the hill where the park is. Mr. Lowell always bought and sold for cash and all transactions were made in silver. "Payday" meant that everyone went "up the hill" to get their "silver". Hence the Swedish town, originally to have been called "Svea" was instead named "Silverhill".

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The second structure built in Silverhill was the "Land Company" office (now the Library). As more families moved to the area, a school building was necessary. So the "Land Company" building was partitioned to provide the first school room. Sarah Carlson moved to Silverhill with her parents and consented to teach a one room school. In 1902, Miss Millie Anderson became the first "State" paid teacher having about 25 pupils.



From its competion in June 1898, Svea Land Company Office was partitioned and used as the Silverhill School, but because of the fast growth of the Silverhill community, the 1903-1904 school year was the last time the large group of Swedish children could fit into the building. The school term of 1904-1905, while a schoolhouse was under construction, was held in the Baptist Church. - Click to Enlarge.

The classroom soon became too small, so the people decided to build a new building. It was a two-story two-room building and it still stands on the corner across from our campus and the Lutheran Church (now the home of Mr. & Mrs. Phil Owen).



The two story - two room schoolhouse was completed by October 1905 and was built with donated labor. The Svea Land Company gave the money that was necessary for lumber and materials which totaled $552.00. It was used as the school for 23 years, 1905 through 1928. - Click to Enlarge.

There was still only one teacher, a Professor Owens. He walked to school as did the children. Each day as he crossed the creek by the turpentine still he stopped at a secret place to

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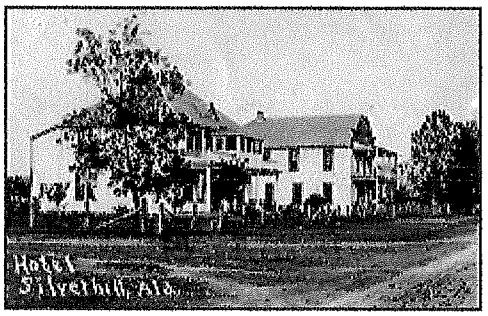
cut a new switch. It seemed that with the use the switch received, it would not last more than one day. In those days, neither teachers nor parents spared the rod. Lunches were carried in buckets, water was also carried by bucket, and everyone drank from the same dipper.



The Hotel Norden was built in 1905 and became a very popular place for northerners to stay during the winter months. - Click to Enlarge.

With the increase in pupils, it became necessary to divide the grades, teaching 5th thru 8th in the morning and primary thru 4th in the afternoon. In 1907, Silverhill became a two teacher school. Two young ladies from Bay Minette, who were cousins, Miss Mary Feminere (Mrs. Killebrew) and Miss Pearl Campbell (Mrs. Noonan) became teachers. They lived at Hotel Norden. Bet you didn't know that at one time Silverhill had two hotels. It was in 1907, that these two teachers were instrumental in organizing one of the first "School Improvement Associations" in Baldwin County. This organization is now known as the Parent Teacher Association. Although the school was community built, the teachers were paid by the state.



Silverhill School, 1929, first year of consolidation of Silverhill and Czech School. - Click to Enlarge.

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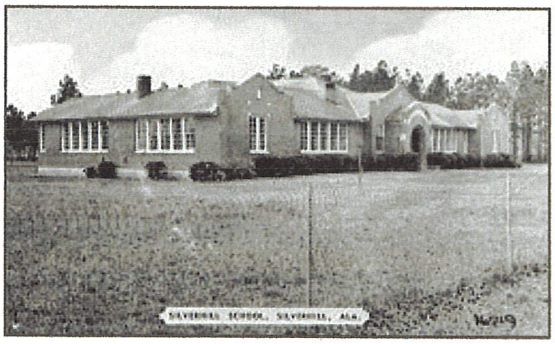
Between 1909 and 1914, Czechoslovakian settlers migrated to Silverhill. They built the first public hall in the area. Located southwest of Silverhill, it was a meeting place for Czech people. It also served as a school building for farm children in the area. When consolidation of schools began in Baldwin County, this one-room school was consolidated with Silverhill School. This also created a need for a school bus so Dave Forsman converted an old truck into a bus and transported pupils to Silverhill School and from there to Robertsdale for high school.



Bohemian Hall in 1921. Czechoslovakian settlers built it in 1920 to be used as the school house (1920 - 1928) and the community hall on the weekends. - Click to Enlarge.

In 1985, the "Little Hall" building was moved to the west side of the Silverhill campus and was used for classes. When the new gymnasium was constructed in 1988, the school board moved the "Little Hall" building to the park adjoining the ball fields where it is currently used for community activities.



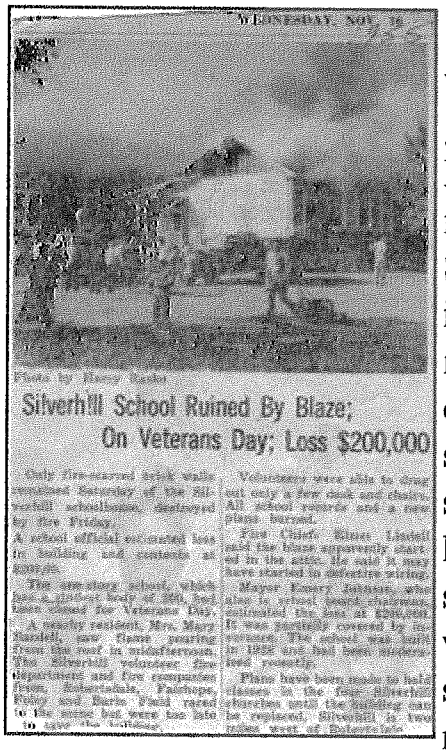
Silverhill School built in 1928 pictured here about 1935, was used as the school from 1929 - 1955. Click to Enlarge.

The state and county built a new school building in 1928. The brick building had six classrooms, an auditorium, kitchen and office. The teachers in the school were principal, Mrs. Louise Lundberg, Miss Genie Ora Tharp Carlson, Miss Eileen Pepper. Mrs. Lundberg coached the first basketball teams at Silverhill.



Sadie Bradley Wingard, Principal, in 1948. Click to Enlarge.

In 1945, while Mrs. Windgard was principal and Mrs. Albert Phillips was P.T.A. president, the P.T.A. began sponsoring the Annual Founders Day Dinner. As you can see this event has become very successful. It soon became the most important school and community event of the year.



Silverhill School Ruined By Blaze; On Veterans Day; Loss $200,000

Friday, November 11, 1955, was the first time students were given Armistice Day or Veteran's Day as a holiday. It became a memorable day for the people of Silverhill for another reason. This is part of the history I can remember vividly as I was in the eighth grade at the time. A fire started in the southeast wing of the school. Despite the efforts of the local fire departments, the entire school burned to the ground. It was a sad experience and I can still remember the sick feeling that night when the brick walls were

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pushed down. Mr. Gerald Robinson was the principal.

The students who thought they would have an extended holiday and be out of school for a while were to be disappointed as the true spirit of the people was to shine as the best was made of a bad situation. Through the effort of the county school officials and the local people the problem was addressed. I remember Mr. McGowan, Dr. McVay and Mr. Smith from this time. My father, Emery Johnson, was chairman of the Silverhill School trustees, and they met in our home. I know that during this time Mr. McGowan, Dr. McVay, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Smith and the local trustees drank a lot of coffee and ate plenty of Swedish pastries, but they accomplished a miracle. On Monday morning, school was back in session without a day being missed. First, second and third grade classes were held in the Mission Covenant Church, fourth, fifth and sixth grades met in the Baptist Church and seventh and eighth grades attended classes in the Town Hall.

In one of the newspaper articles about the fire, Mr. McGowan referred to a countywide survey of needed physical facilities which had been completed prior to the fire. It said 161 classrooms were sorely needed in the county and also listed the need for a cafeteria in Silverhill.

In the summer of 1956 a new school was built. It has six classrooms, two restrooms, an office and a boiler room, but no cafeteria or auditorium. A temporary cafeteria in a building about three blocks away was used for almost two years. In 1958, the community banded together, under the leadership of the P.T.A. and the town, and raised most of the money required to construct a cafeteria building, which is now the school office. Funds were raised through fish and chicken dinners, festivals and bazaars. The county contributed what it could and furnished the equipment. The new cafeteria was constructed twenty five years later in 1981.

Since that time additional rooms and other facilities have been added. Classrooms for kindergarten and a middle school wing were constructed in 1986. The gymnasium was an outstanding addition to the school and community in 1988. The most recent addition was the fourth and fifth grade classrooms

and library wing in 1998.

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A new chapter in the history of Silverhill School began in August 1994 when the middle school (6th, 7th and 8th grades) was consolidated with the middle schools from Elsanor, Loxley, Robertsdale, Rosinton and a portion of Summerdale to form the new Central Baldwin Middle School which is located north of Robertsdale. This change challenged the continuation of the Founders Day celebration but only for a few moments as the determination which is a part of the Silverhill tradition came through again.

A debt of gratitude is owed to the many people who have been a part of Silverhill School for more than one hundred years. Those who have toiled as principals, teachers, parents and concerned citizens have given us something to go along with the wonderful memories. They give us a proud heritage.

Was it worth all the work, sweat, tears and effort? Sure it was and it still is. If you doubt it, stop by our school and look into the faces of the children. You will have the answer.

Written February 26, 2000 for the Annual Founders' Day Dinner.

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the pastor.

Faith Mission Chapel was founded in 1932 by the Mesdames Joel Nordlund (Alida Johnson) and O. E. Osterberg (Ruth Wallendorf). They will organize a church early in 1953.

Under the leadership of Rev. F. Lambert the Catholic Church was organized and built in about 1948.

Page 10 Whole View

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The following are serving the churches in 1952:
Baptist – Rev. D. Ekerholm.
Mission Covenant – Rev. G. H. Nelson and Rev. Carlson.
Lutheran – Rev. Walter Brown.
Faith Mission – Mr. and Mrs. G. Lundberg.
Catholic – Rev. F. Lambert.

The public school has been conducted in a new barn (1) in the building now housing the N. P. C. Library (2) The Baptist Church, (3) the building now known as Mrs. Edhegard's home, and (4) the present brick building with six class rooms, office, auditorium, kitchen and bath rooms. Teachers remembered by the early pioneers were Sarah Carlson, Millie Anderson, Mary Feminear (Killebrew), Pearl Campbell (Noonan), Evelyn Wilkes (Vaill), Miss Hall, Miss Bryars, Agnes Johnson (Utter), Louise Johnson (Lundberg). The teachers in 1952-53 are Mr. G. Robinson, and the Mesdames L. Vick, F. Engstrom, D. Petty and C. Anderson, I. Carlson and G. Lundberg.

The School Improvement Association, later called the P.T.A., was organized in 1909 with Mrs. T. A. Johnson, Chairman, and Mesdames Oscar Johnson, O.P. Forsman, as co- officers. This was while "Miss Pearl and Miss Mary" were teachers. Among other good things, the P.T.A. contributes financially to the school library. During Mrs. W. Wingard's principalship and Mrs. A. Chandler's chairmanship the P.T.A. "Founders Day" has been held in a most beautiful, attractive, and delicious manner, with the hostesses representing the months of the years, and dinner served like a banquet, eaten from beautifully decorated tables.

The Non Pariel Library Club was organized in 1907 sponsoring the Town Library. This club has continued throughout all these years, and

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The Non Pareil Library Club was organized in 1904 sponsoring the Town Library. This club has continued throughout all these years and have done a beautiful

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work both literally, socially, and financially. First the library was held in the tower room of the school building, but now they have purchased the building which housed the first land company, the first Church and Sunday School, and the first public school. Books number up in the many thousands. Among the Charter Members are Vera Johnson (Armstrong), Agnes Johnson (Utter), Anna Linder (Andersen), Anna Nordin (Rogers). The Club meets regularly once a month with a business session, and a social hour with the members entertaining by rotation. There are about forty - five members.

OVER



Click here to return to History Page.

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Materials for State Department Data Driven In-service August 29-August 30, 2005

Test Data
Examples listed below each test

- ARMT
  Group Reports, AYP packet from DRC website, ARMT report from SDE website showing percent of students at each level.
- SAT 10
  Group reports
- Alabama Direct Assessment of Writing
  Group reports
- DIBELS
  Because you have not been able to get into the data base bring the Summary report from last Spring and/or any class reports you have available.
- AHSGE
  Student list, Non-mastery summary, etc. (other reports found on the DRC-online reports site), SDE website Accountability reports, DRC AYP website school packet

School Data

- Tardies
- Referrals
- Suspensions/Expulsions
- Teacher Attendance
- Student Attendance


Go
Back in
Time
http://www.rootsweb.com/~alcsilve/
The Silverhill History Website

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Silverhill History Website

http://www.rootsweb.com/~alcsilve/

Silverhill Elementary School Website

http://www.gulftel.com/shillib/

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Robbie Owen – home

Phil & Debbie [redacted] home work

Peco Foreman [redacted]
alpha agent
Paphie

Evangelical Covenant

Carl Johnson – [redacted]
acctin in Foley

Robbie's uncle - 82 yrs old 82 old resident
Conway Edhegard (Edgard)
[redacted]

Doris Dearborn –
Monad library person

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Silverhill

10:00 Fri

Phil + Debbie Owens house [redacted]

Conway Edhegard (Edgard) [redacted]
82 yrs old - went to school in present Owens home


Silverhill School


Silverhill School



